(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The recent steps taken to increase trade and technical cooperation between India and U.S.A are given brieffy below:—

With the objective of promoting trade and collaboration in advanced technology between the two countries, India and U.S.A signed a Memorandum of Under standing (MOU) on Technology Transfer in November, 1984. The Implementation Procedures document of the MOU was signed on May 17, 1985 during the visit of US Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Malcom Baldrige. Under the MOU, the US Government has issued 66 licences or export of high technology system to India in the last two months.

The India-US Programme for the Advancement of Commercial Technology (PACT) was signed on August 30, 1985. The Programme promises to provide important link between Indian and American firms in scientific and technical for specific work on product and process research and development. US AID will provide 12 million over a period of 5 years for specific work on product and process. development involving engineering and experimental design studies, manufacture of prototypes, laboratory and market testing and pilot scale trials. PACT will be administered by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and will be organised under two national advisory councils.

Powerloom licences for unemployed retrenched textile workers

349. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reserve powerloom licences for those persons who have been rendered unemployed due to the closure of textile mills or retrenched following modernisation of the mills; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) It is not considered necessary to make any reservation for such persons. There are no specific restrictions regarding eligibility of persons for setting up powerlooms under the new Textile Policy. The requirements of compulsory registration and locational guidelines will however, apply to sick powerlooms.

(b) Does not arise.

Issue of licences for export of shells found in Andaman Islands

350. SHRI D. HEERACHAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue licences for the export of special type of shells and living snails shells found in and around Andaman Islands to Japan and China; if so, what are the details of the proposal and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned thereby;

(b) whether Government have received any represantation in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Export of Sea Shells is allowed "On Merits" in terms of existing export licensing policy. There is no separate policy for export of shells found in Andaman Islands. The amount of foreign exchange earned through export of Sea Shells from the Indian Coast and Andaman Islands was Rs. 10.67 lakhs during 1984-85.

Government have not received any representation in regard to the matter of issuing licences.